

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02

SP-02 JUSE-00 /048 W

-----114085 211106Z /11

R 210647Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7467

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS DACCA 7295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EWWT, BG

SUBJ: M V NORDTRAMP

REF: DACCA 6833

1. REFTEL DESCRIBES THE CONCERNS OF THE U.S. FIRM INTRASPAN (OF NEW YORK CITY) AND OF THE BANGLADESHI FIRM THE SERVICES INTERNATIONAL THAT A CHITTAGONG-BOUND SHIPMENT OF 10,500 METRIC TONS OF SCRAP STEEL ON BOARD THE DANISH VESSEL M V NORDTRAMP MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY DIVERTED TO THE PORT OF TUTICORIN, INDIA. THE CARGO WAS SHIPPED UNDER A U.S. LINER BILL OF LADING ISSUED JULY 7, 1977 IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK. INCLUDED ON THE BILL IS THE CAVEAT: QUOTE THIS COMMODITY LICENSED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR ULTIMATE DESTINATION BANGLADESH. DIVERSION CONTRARY TO U.S. LAW PROHIBITED. UNQUOTE.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH OFFICERS OF THE SERVICES WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE DANISH EMBASSY IN DACCA AND HARBOR AUTHORITIES IN TUTICORIN. IN ADDITION, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICES UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THE NORD-TRAMP IN TUTICORIN AND THE SHIP'S OWNER NORDTRAMP NORD-BROWN OF COPENHAGEN. THE NORDTRAMP WAS REPORTED ON DECEMBER 3 BY CAPTAIN N. SHANMUGAM VANDAYAR, THE PORT OFFICER, TUTICORIN, TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF DISCHARGING ITS CARGO OF SCRAP IRON IN TUTICORIN.

3. ON DECEMBER 12, 1977, EMBOFF RECEIVED A LETTER AND A TELEPHONE CALL FROM T.M. LUTFER RAHMAN, ADDITIONAL GENERAL MANAGER (PURCHASE), BANGLADESH STEEL AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION (BSEC). BSEC, A GOVERNMENT CORPORATION, IS THE PURCHASER OF THE SCRAP STEEL. MR. RAHMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE APPARENT DIVERSION OF THE CARGO AND ASKED THE EMBASSY TO INTERVENE IN THE MATTER. (EARLIER AND SIMILAR REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE HAVE ALSO COME FROM THE SERVICES.) WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO BSEC (AND THE SERVICES) THE BELIEF THAT THE ILLEGAL DISCHARGE OF CARGO FROM A DANISH FLAG VESSEL IN AN INDIAN PORT APPEARS TO BE A MATTER FOR (1) LEGAL AUTHORITIES IN INDIA, OR (2) THE DANISH EMBASSIES IN INDIA AND BANGLADESH THROUGH THEIR CONSULAR AUTHORITY OVER DANISH FLAG VESSELS, OR (3) CIVIL ACTION IN U.S. COURTS BY AGGRIEVED PARTIES BASED ON THE APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE U.S. BILL OF LADING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES OF BSEC AND THE SERVICES, WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THIS POSSIBLE DIVERSION VIOLATES U.S. CRIMINAL STATUTES, AND WHAT ASSISTANCE, IF ANY, EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CARGO HANDLING, STEEL, NORDTRAMP M/V, TRADE COMPLAINTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA07295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770475-0918
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771233/aaaabbbq.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 023316ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DACCA 6833
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 161914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: M V NORDTRAMP
TAGS: BDIS, EWWT, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/023316ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009